



Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge

Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge – History

The Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge is named for the eight-term Southeast Missouri congressman who helped lead efforts to secure funding for its construction. Congressman Emerson worked hard to secure Federal Highway Administration money to proceed with the construction and passed away in June 1996 shortly before the contract to build the bridge was awarded.

Congressman Emerson's House and Senate colleagues unanimously passed legislation three days after his death to name the new bridge in his honor. President Clinton later signed the legislation.

The Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge is anticipated to open December 2003. The estimated cost of the bridge is \$100 million. Eighty percent of the funding comes from the federal government. Missouri and Illinois each contribute 10 percent. The structure will be a 100-foot wide, 4,000-foot-long cable-stay bridge. It will link Cape Girardeau, Mo., and East Cape Girardeau, Ill., and span the Mississippi River. The Emerson Bridge will be illuminated at night by 140 lights.

A new structure is needed to safely and efficiently accommodate the many motorists who use the current Mississippi River Bridge each day. Traffic on the structure is continually increasing and future projections indicate this trend will continue. Currently, 14,000 vehicles use the structure daily, and, by the year 2015, the volume is expected to increase to 26,000 vehicles per day.

The Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge will serve this area as an important part of the transportation system and as a beautiful landmark for many years to come. It is a deserving tribute that the bridge be named in honor of someone who worked so hard for it to be built.

Bridge Facts

Location:	The approach to the new bridge connecting Cape Girardeau, Mo., with East Cape Girardeau, Ill., will be located approximately three blocks south of the existing structure in Missouri. In Illinois, the approach will be very near the existing bridge site.
Design:	<p>The structure will be supported by a total of 15 piers including the land abutments in Missouri and Illinois.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main Span: The first four piers from the Missouri side support most of the structure. This main span area crosses the navigational channel of the river. Suspension cables provide the support for the main span. A bridge of this type is known as a cable-stay structure.• Illinois Approach: Piers 5-15 make up the Illinois approach span. They are positioned from where the cable-stay section ends and connect with the Illinois shore. These 10 piers are much closer together than those that comprise the cable-stay section.
Width:	At approximately 100 feet wide, the new bridge will be nearly five times as wide as the current structure. Four lanes, two going east and two going west, along with 10-foot roadway shoulders, will be included. The current bridge has two lanes and no shoulder.
Length:	The new structure will be 3,956 feet long. This is similar to the length of 13 football fields. The cable-stay portion totals 2,086 feet, whereas the Illinois approach span measures 1,870 feet. The existing bridge is 3,413 feet long.
Height:	The driving lanes of the bridge deck will be located 60 feet above the river. The suspension cables are attached to towers above the deck that rise to 300 feet above the river.
Lighting:	The bridge lighting includes 140 lights to welcome motorists to the region. The Clark Bridge in Alton, Ill., has similar decorative lighting. The lights have been made possible through private fundraising. Each of the 32 large lights and 108 small lights on the bridge has been sponsored by an organization or individual.

Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge Opening Ceremony Commemorative Booklet

The *Southeast Missourian* is offering a memento for the opening of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge with a 'Limited Edition' commemorative booklet. This full-color, glossy souvenir will include:

- photos and specs of the Mississippi River Bridge and the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge
- a schedule of events for the day of the opening ceremony
- editorials from the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding the building of the bridge
- letters from government officials, Chamber of Commerce presidents and others who have been involved in coordinating the festivities surrounding the bridge opening
- advertisements from contractors and local businesses, displaying their involvement in and enthusiasm for the bridge project

For only \$2, the public can purchase this little piece of history. The booklet will be sold on the day of the celebration, as well as prior to the event. The Commemorative Booklet will be made available beginning with the opening of a bridge museum exhibit being held at the H & H Building at 400 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Exhibit hours will be from 1 – 5 p.m. on November 8-9, November 15-16, and November 22-23. It will also be available at the *Southeast Missourian* at 301 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, the Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce at 1267 N. Mount Auburn Road, and the Cape Girardeau Convention and Visitors Bureau at 100 Broadway. For bulk sales, please contact Carol Robert at the *Southeast Missourian* at (573) 335-6611 ext. 106.

Missouri Department of Transportation Officials

Local – Southeast District:

Scott Meyer, district engineer	(573) 472-5340
Stan Johnson, area engineer	(573) 243-0899
Bob Wilson, resident engineer	(573) 243-0899
Eric Krapf, project manager	(573) 472-5261
Lynelle Luther, operations engineer	(573) 472-5367
Allen Friedrich, senior construction inspector	(573) 334-6892
Rick Lamb, senior construction inspector	(573) 334-6892
Angie Wilson, public information manager	(573) 472-6632

Headquarters Leadership – Jefferson City:

Henry Hungerbeeler, director
Kevin Keith, chief engineer
Pat Goff, chief operating officer

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

Ollie Gates, chairman
Barry Orschlen, vice chairman
Marge Schramm
James Anderson
Bill McKenna
Duane Michie

Design Consultant – HNTB Architects Engineers Planners

Steve Hague, associate vice president	(816) 527-2207
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Illinois Department of Transportation Officials

Timothy Martin, secretary
David Phelps, assistant secretary
Victor Modeer, director

District 9

Tom Zerrusen, district engineer	(618) 351-5201
Joe Lenzini, construction engineer	(618) 351-5254
Keith Roberts, supervising field engineer	(618) 351-5253
Bill Zdankiewicz, resident engineer	(618) 661-1221
Greg Smothers, operations engineer	(618) 351-5240

Designers

Beth Ponce, program development engineer, District 9	(618) 549-2171
Joe Zdankiewicz, studies & plans engineer, District 9	(618) 549-2171
Larry Anderson, project engineer, District 9	(618) 549-2171

All Entry Forms Available Online

Entry Forms for all bridge competitions and exhibitions can be located at the following Web sites:

- Missouri Department of Transportation
www.modot.org/southeast/bridge.htm
- Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce
www.capechamber.com
- Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.capegirardeaucvb.org

EVENT PLANNER

**Celebrating
the
Grand Opening
of the
Bill Emerson
Memorial Bridge**

Thursday, Oct. 16

EVENT: "Draw the Bridge" Contest

ENTRY

DEADLINE: October 16

BACKGROUND: Students are encouraged to participate in a drawing contest to celebrate the opening of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge. There are three age groups: 5-7, 8-10 and 11-12. Entries consist of an original drawing of what a bridge *should* look like. The drawing does not have to resemble the new bridge.

An official entry form was provided in the August edition of the *Southeast Missourian Jr.* All artwork should be entered on this form. Copies of the *Jr.* are available at the *Southeast Missourian* office, area elementary schools, and various sponsors and advertisers (Schnucks, Southeast Missouri Hospital, Target, etc.) Submissions need to include the entrant's name and school. Entry forms can be returned to:

Southeast Missourian Jr.
301 Broadway
PO Box 699
Cape Girardeau, MO 63702-0699

All entries will be displayed at City Hall. The winner's classroom will receive a visit from Mayor Knudtson and Scott Meyer, a MoDOT Southeast District Engineer. The winners also will be honored at an invitation only reception. The winning drawings will be on display in the H & H Building, 400 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, along with other bridge related displays. The drawings will be available for viewing Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8-9, Nov. 15-16, and Nov. 22-23.

SPONSOR: City of Cape Girardeau
Missouri Department of Transportation
Southeast Missourian Junior

QUOTE: "The "Draw the Bridge" contest is a creative way for our youth to be a part of history in conjunction with the opening of the new Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge. It will be exciting to see what concepts our young contestants will have about what the bridge should look like. We might even find a future bridge designer!" -- **Tracey Glenn, public information officer, City of Cape Girardeau**

CONTACT: Tracey Glenn, public information officer, City of Cape Girardeau,
(573) 335-8556

Saturday, Oct. 18

EVENT: “Miss Diamond Cape” Pageant

TIME: Final show at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 18

LOCATION: Academic Hall Auditorium, Southeast Missouri State University

BACKGROUND: This pageant commemorates the 75th Anniversary (the diamond anniversary) of the opening of the first bridge connecting Cape Girardeau, Mo., with East Cape Girardeau, Ill. There will be three judges and four age groups.

The age groups are:

5- 8 Tiny Miss Diamond Cape 12-15 Teen Miss Diamond Cape

9-11 Junior Miss Diamond Cape 16-19 Miss Diamond Cape

The contestants will compete in the categories of interview, gown, poise and talent.

There is a \$20 entry fee. Checks should be made payable to “Emerson Bridge Opening.” Each contestant is provided with four admission tickets to give to family and friends. General admission tickets will be available Saturday at the door for \$1. Registration forms for this event are available by contacting Faune Riggan at (573) 651-0313 or online at www.modot.org/southeast/bridge.htm, www.capechamber.com and www.capegirardeaucvb.org. The deadline for registration is Oct. 1. Forms can be returned by mail to:

Ms. Faune Riggan
110 Rivercrest
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

SPONSOR: Zimmer Radio
Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce
Schnucks

QUOTE: “This particular event gives young women in the Cape Girardeau surrounding area a unique and fun opportunity to participate in this historical event. The Miss Diamond Cape Pageant gives families another way to connect to Cape Girardeau's newest landmark.” -- **Erin Hamm, staff assistant for U.S. Sen. Jim Talent**

“Pageants build self-esteem and confidence through public speaking and social interaction with other young women. Pageants are liberating, educational, eye opening and downright fun.” -- **Faune Riggan, assignment editor, KZIM Radio**

CONTACT: Erin Hamm, staff assistant for U.S. Sen. Jim Talent, (573) 651-0964

Friday, Oct. 31

EVENT: Essay Contest

ENTRY

DEADLINE: October 31

BACKGROUND: An essay contest will be held for grades K-4 (250-word minimum), grades 5-8 (250-word minimum), and grades 9-12 (500-word minimum). The theme is "What a Bridge Means to Me." Submissions will be accepted through Oct. 31. Essays can be mailed or delivered to:

Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce
1267 Mount Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Winners will be honored at an invitation only reception. In addition, each winner will be awarded a certificate and the opportunity to be among the first to walk across the new bridge.

Essays will be on display in the H & H Building at 400 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, along with other bridge related displays. The essays will be available for viewing Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8-9, Nov. 15-16, and Nov. 22-23.

SPONSOR: Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce

QUOTE: "We want children of all ages to have the opportunity to explore the idea of what a bridge means to them. A person only gets to participate in the opening of a bridge like this once in a lifetime. As adults, this bridge signifies growth and commerce, but for a child, a bridge can mean many different things. We want to celebrate the voice of our children as the voice of the future." -- **John Mehner, president and CEO, Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce**

CONTACT: John Mehner, president and CEO, Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce,
(573) 335-3312

Friday, Oct. 31

EVENT: Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge Song-Writing Event

ENTRY

DEADLINE: October 31

BACKGROUND: This will be a competition in which participants submit a three-minute original song with lyrics about both the present Mississippi River Bridge and the new Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge. The song must be on tape or CD and will be judged by area music professionals. The winner of the competition will be awarded a plaque and given the opportunity to perform, or have someone perform, the winning song at an invitation only reception and at the bridge dedication ceremony.

Registration forms are available at Anderson Broadcasting, the Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce, and Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitors Bureau. The registration form and song, along with a \$5 entry fee made payable to "Emerson Bridge Opening," are to be returned to:

Anderson Broadcasting
Attn: Teresa Morrill
753 Enterprise
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

SPONSOR: Anderson Broadcasting/ C-106 Coyote Country

QUOTE: "What better way to celebrate the history of the old bridge and the new Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge project than with the artistic expression of music. This contest will provide a way to involve the musically talented people in the area and contribute to the historic opening of the new bridge." -- **Teresa Morrill, sales associate, Anderson Broadcasting**

CONTACT: Teresa Morrill, sales associate, Anderson Broadcasting, (573) 334-7800

Friday, Oct. 31

EVENT: **Photography Competition and Exhibition: “Highways, Waterways and Railways: Transportation along the Mississippi”**

**ENTRY
DEADLINE:** October 31

BACKGROUND: This event will be a photographic print competition celebrating the opening of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge. Entries should be images that celebrate any aspect of modern modes of transportation along the Mississippi River: auto, trucking, railroading, and boating (even horse and carriage). Appropriate subject matter could include, but is not limited to, scenic and action images featuring landscape, vehicles, construction and transportation-related workers in their work environment.

The competition is open to anyone ages 16 years or older and will have two divisions -- amateur and professional. Within each division, there will be two categories -- film and digital. Each category will have subcategories of color, and black and white. The competition will be juried by an individual(s) from the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri.

Registration forms and photographs must be entered, along with a \$10 entry fee made payable to “Emerson Bridge Opening, no later than Oct. 31. There is a maximum limit of three entries per person. Submitted photos will only be returned if a self-addressed, stamped envelope with correct postage is provided. Registration forms will be available at various locations such as the Arts Council, camera shops, one-hour photo labs, and photography departments.

The winning entrants will be honored at an invitation only reception and will receive a plaque. The 16 winning entries will be on display at the H & H Building in Cape Girardeau, Mo., along with other bridge displays. The exhibit will remain open Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8-9, Nov. 15-16, and Nov. 22-23.

SPONSOR: Pat Patterson Photography

QUOTE: “The Mississippi River is one of the most beautiful natural treasures in the country. We hope the bridge photography contest will bring out some of the best images of our highways, waterways and railways, and that these images will stand as pieces of our regional history for many, many years to come.”
– **Pat Patterson, owner of Pat Patterson Photography**

CONTACT: Pat Patterson, owner of Pat Patterson Photography, (573) 335-5197

Saturday, Nov. 8

EVENT: Bridge Building Competition

ENTRY

DEADLINE: November 4

BACKGROUND: A bridge building contest will be held for students in two categories: grades 7-9 and 10-12. Individuals or groups of up to four students may participate. The bridges will be judged in three categories including strength, most reflecting the likeness of the new Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge and least reflecting the likeness of the new Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge.

Contest rules and guidelines can be obtained at the Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitors Bureau or MoDOT's Southeast District office (2675 N. Main Street, Sikeston, 1-888-ASK-MODOT or 1-888-275-6636). Entries can be dropped off at the Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitors Bureau at 100 Broadway (573-335-1631).

A formal announcement of the winners in the "most reflecting the likeness of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge" and the "least reflecting the likeness" categories will be made at an invitation only reception. The strength competition will take place on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 1 p.m. at the H & H Building. The H & H Building is located at 400 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, Mo. The contest will be judged by Steve Hague, a designer of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge.

The first place winners in each category will receive a certificate along with an opportunity for the engineers who designed the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge to visit with their class. The first place winners also will receive preferred seating during the bridge dedication ceremony.

SPONSORS: Missouri Department of Transportation – Southeast District
HNTB Architects Engineers Planners – Kansas City
Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitors Bureau

QUOTE: "As the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge designer, I am excited about the opportunity to encourage bridge designers of tomorrow to explore, plan and create a structure that reflects their unique style and approach to bridge building." - - **Steve Hague, associate vice president, HNTB**

CONTACT: Angie Wilson, public information manager, Missouri Department of Transportation, (573) 472-6632

Saturday, Sunday

Nov. 8-9, Nov. 15-16, Nov. 22-23

EVENT: **Museum Exhibition: “Bridge to Our Past and Future”**

TIME: 1-5 p.m. on Nov. 8-9, Nov. 15-16, Nov. 22-23

LOCATION: H & H Building, 400 Broadway, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

BACKGROUND: A collection of memorabilia from the old and new bridges will be on display during this exhibition. Examples include photos taken during the construction of the original bridge and bonds that were sold to raise money for that project. Contributions to the exhibit of items related to the old or new bridge are welcome and will be returned when finished. Contact Kristi Nitsch at (573) 335-0101 by Oct. 31 if you have items you would like to contribute to the exhibit.

The exhibit will officially open with an invitation only reception. The exhibit will then be open from 1-5 p.m. in the H & H Building at Broadway and Fountain, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8-9, Nov. 15-16, Nov. 22-23.

SPONSOR: U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson
John and Jerrienne Wyman
Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitors Bureau

QUOTE: “There are some remarkable pieces of bridge memorabilia in this region that date back many, many years. These are historic treasures that tie us to our past and provide perspective on how far we have come. I invite everyone in the region to stop by the exhibit of memorabilia and take a walk down memory lane.” -- **Jerrienne Wyman, co-owner of Bella Italia and Royal N’Orleans**

“As we welcome the future in the form of the new Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge, it is important that we not forget our past. The museum exhibits demonstrate the challenges of bridging the Mississippi River, as well as the ingenuity that helped us succeed. It is truly remarkable how we live with the river, not just beside it. The museum does an excellent job educating us on the history of our coexistence with the Mississippi.” -- **Jo Ann Emerson, Eighth District U.S. Representative**

CONTACT: Kristi Nitsch, office of U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, (573) 335-0101

Friday, Nov. 21

EVENT: Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge VIP

TIME: Day of Grand Opening Ceremony

LOCATION: Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge

BACKGROUND: A VIP drawing will be held, which will raise funds to support the dedication ceremony of the Emerson Bridge. Tickets for the drawing will be sold for a suggested donation of \$5. The drawing will take place on Friday, Nov. 21. Five winning tickets will be drawn.

The first place winner will choose between either being among the first of the general public to cross the bridge or starting the initiative to demolish the old bridge. The second place winner will be awarded the remaining option. Third, fourth and fifth place winners will be awarded a selection of various prizes, including a piece of cable from the new bridge, a piece of the old bridge or an unframed copy of the official bridge painting.

Tickets will be sold at the MoDOT booth at the SEMO District Fair, Sept. 6-13 and every business day until the drawing at the Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Schnucks Ticket Outlet.

QUOTE: “Those who are among the first to cross this new bridge will be making history. It will be a generational event, one to be told and retold. Just as modern engineering has designed a structure that will last for a very long time, so we desire to create an event that will survive in our memories. The person who initiates the demolition of the old bridge will participate in the welcoming of a new era. While some have wanted to see the bridge preserved, it has been declared impossible by the Coast Guard and others. The Mississippi River Bridge will be put to rest with honor, while we celebrate its many years of service.” -- **John Mehner, president and CEO, Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce**

CONTACT: John Mehner, president and CEO, Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce,
(573) 335-3312

Anticipated - Saturday, Dec. 13

EVENT: Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge Dedication Ceremony

TIMELINE:

9 a.m. (tentative)	Ceremony begins with remarks by dignitaries
9:55 a.m. (tentative)	Ribbon is cut
10 a.m. (tentative)	Inaugural drive/celebration caravan
11 a.m. (tentative)	Bridge open to foot traffic for photos, etc., as well as 5-K run, two-mile walk and bike ride
1 p.m. (tentative)	Bridge cleared
3 p.m. (tentative)	Bridge opens to traffic

LOCATION: Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge

BACKGROUND: This dedication ceremony will be held on the Missouri/Illinois state line near the middle of the bridge. Shuttle service will be available from various locations throughout Cape Girardeau to the bridge site. A commemorative booklet will be available for \$2 the day of the ceremony.

The inaugural drive/celebration caravan will begin on the Illinois side of the bridge and cross to the Missouri side. The Cape Antique Car Club will be providing vehicles representing the past 75 years that span between the dedication of the old bridge and the new. The drive will include dignitaries, bridge workers (contractors, iron workers, employees of MoDOT and IDOT, etc.) and those receiving special recognition at the ceremony. A marching band and other sources of entertainment will lend to the festivities.

An off-site venue at the Harrison College of Business on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for approximately 400 people who would like to watch the ceremony on large-screen television.

SPONSORS:

- Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce
- Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitors Bureau
- City of Cape Girardeau
- Missouri Department of Transportation
- Illinois Department of Transportation

QUOTE: “We are excited and couldn’t be happier about the upcoming dedication celebration. We encourage residents from throughout the region to come and join in the festivities and be a part of Southeast Missouri history.” -- **John Mehner, president and CEO, Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce**

CONTACT:

- John Mehner, president and CEO, Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce, (573) 335-3312
- Angie Wilson, public information manager, Missouri Department of Transportation, (573) 472-6632

Anticipated - Saturday, Dec. 13

EVENT: **The Diamond Club: Honoring Those Present 75 Years Ago and Today**

TIME: 9 a.m. (tentative) -- start of dedication ceremony

LOCATION: Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge

BACKGROUND: This event will recognize people who were present for the existing bridge's dedication in 1928. They will be honored with preferred seating and additional recognition during the Emerson Bridge dedication.

Participants must register within one week prior to the opening ceremony. Registration can be made by calling the MoDOT District Office in Sikeston, Mo., toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636) or the Cape Girardeau Chamber Commerce at (573) 335-3312.

SPONSOR: Missouri Department of Transportation

QUOTE: “It is important to honor area residents who are a part of the history of the bridges of Cape Girardeau, both the old and the new. Those who were present at the dedication of the existing Mississippi River Bridge become our ‘bridge’ to the future. They help us to not lose sight of the significance of that history, and as the old bridge is replaced, those who were there to welcome it in 1928 symbolize our continuing drive towards growth and success.” -- **Angie Wilson, public information manager, Missouri Department of Transportation**

CONTACT: Angie Wilson, public information manager, Missouri Department of Transportation, (573) 472-6632

Anticipated - Saturday, Dec. 13

EVENT: Run, Walk, Bike

TIME: 11 a.m. (tentative)

LOCATION: Southeast River Campus

BACKGROUND: An event is being held to allow people of all ages and athletic abilities the opportunity to experience the new bridge firsthand. A 5K run, a two-mile walk and a 14-mile bike ride will take place following the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge dedication ceremony.

Both the 5K run and the 14-mile bike ride will be timed, and prizes will be awarded. All riders under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. The use of helmets is highly recommended.

Registration forms will be available at the student recreation centers on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University. There is a \$10 entry fee. Checks should be made payable to "Emerson Bridge Opening." Forms can be returned to:

Recreational Sports, Southeast Missouri State University
Attn: Matt Specht
1 University Plaza, MS 7100
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Participants will receive a long-sleeve T-shirt while supplies last. In order to guarantee a T-shirt, those interested should pre-register at least a week before the event. Registration also will be open the day of the dedication ceremony.

SPONSOR: Cape Roadrunners
Velo Girardeau Bicycle Club

QUOTE: "This event will provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to the community to celebrate the opening of the bridge by running, walking, and biking across the river. Once the event is over, the bridge will become open to regular traffic, and it may be another seventy-five years or more before we experience an occasion this momentous again." -- **Matt Specht, associate director of recreational sports, Southeast Missouri State University**

CONTACT: Tonya Wells, Missouri Department of Transportation, (573) 472-6607
Matt Specht, associate director of recreational sports, Southeast Missouri State University, (573) 651-5142
Steve Gerard, representative, Velo Girardeau Bicycle Club, (573) 335-7366
Terry McDowell, representative, Cape Roadrunners, (573) 334-0587